

REMARKS

The Official Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-10 as obvious over the Ochiai reference in view of the Okada reference and JP 02296267A (the Nisho reference). Okada and Nisho are newly applied references.

As acknowledged in the Official Action, Ochiai is a reference showing a roller that is not foamed as all. Okada, the second reference applied in the rejection, is about developing systems having compliant toner carriers. The Official Action references column 13, lines 3-33 of Okada, which is a discussion of Fig. 6 of the patent.

The toner carrier of Fig. 6 is foamed (col. 13, l. 21-28) and is shown with foam holes. It is said to easily deform (col. 13, l. 15-16). The toner carrier is not disclosed as having any magnetic properties. A soft, foamed roller having no magnetic properties simply has no logical relationship to a magnetic roller.

Moreover, the Okada Fig. 6 shows foam bubbles approximately evenly dispersed within the roller, while the claims of this application require no bubbles of foam on the outside of the roller. The Official Action cites the Nisho abstract for teaching no foam bubbles on the surface. However, the Nisho abstract is also to a toner carrier having no teaching of the roller having magnetic properties. Even more fundamentally, the Nisho abstract teaches that very small bubble on the surface are an alternative. Accordingly, the Nisho abstract is all about keeping toner from entering the roller and has no logical relationship to a magnetic roller.

In summary, the two secondary references, Okada and Nisho, are grossly different in purpose and structure from this invention, and the primary reference, Ochiai represents the prior art which this invention improves upon. Thus, the specification of

this application reads at page 8, lines 1-5: "Examination of a cross section of this roller injection molded as discussed below would show some small bubbles clustered near the center and no bubbles near the outside. To the extent the bubbles exist, the weight of the roller is reduced. Savings of the cost of materials and expense of handling and shipment are realized from the weight reduction."

Claim 1 is the single independent claim pending.

Dependent claim 8 is further rejected as obvious on the basis of Ochiai teaching carbon filler. However, such a teaching would not overcome the deficiencies of the references with respect to claim 1 as discussed in the foregoing.

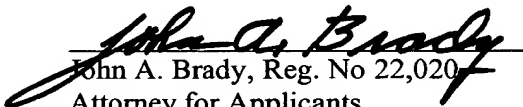
Similarly, the rejection of dependent claims 9 and 10 as matters of obvious design is overcome by the deficiencies of the references with respect to claim 1 as discussed in the foregoing.

Dependent claims 5 and 6 are further rejected as obvious on the basis of the Ochiai teaching of nylon, and dependent claim 7 is rejected as obvious on the basis of the Lee teaching of strontium. However, such teaching could not supply the deficiencies of the references with respect to claim 1 discussed in the foregoing.

Accordingly, reconsideration in due course is respectfully requested, followed by allowance of claims 1-10, all of the pending claims under examination..

Respectfully submitted,

Michael John Dixon et al.


John A. Brady, Reg. No 22,020
Attorney for Applicants
Lexmark International, Inc.
Intellectual Property Law Dept.
740 W. New Circle Road
Lexington, KY 40550
(859) 232-4785